REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 17-28 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 17 and 21 are the independent claims. Claims 1-12 and 17-24 are amended herein. Claims 13-16 are canceled without prejudice. New Claims 25-28 are added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

No new matter is believed to have been introduced to the application by this amendment. The changes to the claims are fully supported by the disclosure, including, for example, paragraphs [52] and [75] through [81], and FIG. 4. New paragraphs [29A] – [29B] include the subject matter of independent Claims 1, 7, 17 and 21.

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to because of certain informalities in that the Office Action noted that the phrase "check box 601" should be replaced with "check box 602" in paragraph [68]. Applicant notes that this typographical error appears in paragraph [62] rather than paragraph [68], and the correction is made as shown above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claims 17-20 were objected to as allegedly being a substantial duplicate of Claims 13-16. Claims 13-16 are canceled herein without prejudice. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 17 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by U.S. Patent No. 7,039,709 (Beadle); Claims 2, 8, 14, 18 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Beadle in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,999,912 (Loisey); Claims 3, 9, 15, 19 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Beadle in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2002/0091850 (Perholtz); Claims 5 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Beadle in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,181,524

(Lele); and Claims 6, 12, 16, 20 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Beadle in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2004/0183831 (Ritchy). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a user interface for managing a connection between a remote computing device and a local computing device. The user interface comprises a connection management window operative to display at least a first connection icon for a first application. The first connection icon represents a first connection between the remote computing device and a first local computing device. In the connection management window, a user can either select the first connection icon or an active area within the connection management window. Selecting the first connection icon allows a first connection represented by the first connection icon to become modifiable to alter the first connection. Selecting the active area allows a new connection window to appear and, upon designating a new connection, allows a second connection icon for a second application to be displayed within the connection management window. The second connection icon represents a second connection different from the first connection. The second connection may be between the remote computing device and a second local computing device. The first application may be different from the second application.

Independent Claim 7 is directed to a method for managing a connection between a local computing device and a remote computing device using a user interface. The method comprises the steps of displaying a user interface, and displaying at least a first connection icon for a first application on the user interface. The first connection icon represents a first connection between the remote computing device and a first local computing device. The method further comprises

the step of receiving a user selection of the first connection icon. The user selection of the first connection icon allows a first connection represented by the first connection icon to become modifiable to alter the first connection. The method further comprises the step of receiving a user selection of an active area of the user interface. The user selection of the active area allows a second connection icon for a second application to be displayed. The second connection icon represents a second connection different than the first connection.

Independent Claim 17 is directed to computer-executable program code stored on a computer readable medium. The computer-executable program code can manage a connection between a local computing device and a remote computing device using a user interface. The computer-executable program code comprises code for displaying a user interface and code for displaying at least a first connection icon for a first application on the user interface. The first connection icon represents a first connection between the remote computing device and a first local computing device. The computer-executable program code further comprises code for receiving a user selection of the first connection icon. The user selection of the first connection icon allows a first connection represented by the first connection icon to become modifiable to alter the first connection. The computer-executable program code further comprises code for receiving a user selection of an active area of the user interface. The user selection of the active area allows a second connection icon for a second application to be displayed. The second connection icon represents a second connection different than the first connection.

Independent Claim 21 is directed to a programmed computer apparatus for managing a connection between a local computing device and a remote computing device using a user interface. The programmed computer apparatus comprises means for displaying a user interface

and means for displaying at least a first connection icon for a first application on the user interface. The first connection icon represents a first connection between the remote computing device and a first local computing device. The programmed computer apparatus further comprises means for receiving a user selection of the first connection icon. The user selection of the first connection icon allows a first connection represented by the first connection icon to become modifiable to alter the first connection. The programmed computer apparatus further comprises means for receiving a user selection of an active area of the user interface. The user selection of the active area allows a second connection icon for a second application to be displayed. The second connection icon represents a second connection different than the first connection.

By way of illustration, without limiting the scope of the claims, Applicant discloses in Figure 4, connection management window 401 for managing a connection between computer 100 and local computing device 120. Connection management window 401 can display, for example, first connection icon 404 for an IE 2 application and second connection icon 405 for an RDP 2 application. Selecting first connection icon 404 of the IE 2 application can cause the first connection represented by first connection icon 404 to become modifiable to alter the first connection. For instance, a first connection configuration dialog can appear, allowing the user to edit or delete the first connection. Selecting an active area (e.g., an empty area of desk top 402 in Figure 4) can cause a new connection window to appear. Upon designating a new connection, connection management window 401 can display second connection icon 405 for the RDP 2 application.

Turning to the applied references, Beadle—which appears to be the main reference relied upon in the Office Action—illustrates a connection settings graphical user interface (GUI) in FIG. 5A. Connection settings GUI 500 has Select Default Connection frame 501 and Server Selections frame 503. Select Default Connection frame 501 contains a select button for each connection medium available to the client system. Select buttons for Standard 505A, DSL 505B, Satellite 505C, and cable modem 505D are illustrated. See Beadle, col. 6, lines 49-66; FIG. 5A. Server Selections frame 503 allows the user to select an option for determining which connection routes to utilize during server connections. Three major routing options, presented as selectable buttons, are available. The selectable buttons of the routing options include Select Default Server button 507, Override Defaults button 511 and Automatic Routing button 513. See Beadle, col. 7, lines 4-9; FIG. 5A.

The Office Action alleges that the DSL button in FIG. 5A is the "first connection icon." Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claim 1 recites "a first connection icon for a first application" and "a second connection icon for a second application." The DSL button in FIG. 5A of Beadle, however, is not a first connection icon specific to any particular application. DSL is merely a generic connection medium, and is not for one specific application. In addition, none of the other buttons (i.e., the Standard button, the Satellite button, and the Cable Modem button) is for any one particular application. Thus, Beadle fails to disclose or suggest any connection icon for one specific application, let alone two different connection icons in which a first connection icon is for a first application and a second connection icon is for a second application.

Claim 1 further recites that "selecting the first connection icon allows a first connection represented by the first connection icon to become modifiable to alter the first connection." In

Beadle, selecting the DSL button (or other buttons) does not cause the DSL connection to become modifiable. In other words, in response to clicking the DSL button, the DSL connection does not become modifiable.

The Office Action alleges that "using update options 'Select Default Server' block 507, 'Override Defaults' block 511, or 'Automatic Routing' block 513, then clicking 'Update Setting' button 515" disclosed in Beadle equates to the limitation that "if the user selection includes the first connection icon, the connection represented by the first connection icon becomes modifiable to alter the first connection." Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Clicking the DSL button (or any other buttons) in Select Default Connection 501 does not result in invoking any of Select Default Server block 507, Override Defaults block 511, or Automatic Routing block 513 in Server Selections 503. Select Default Connection 501 and Server Selections 503 are simply presented side-by-side as shown in FIG. 5A regardless of whether a button in Select Default Connection 501 is clicked or not clicked. Selecting one of the buttons in Select Default Connection 501 does not result in invoking any of blocks 507, 511 and 513 in Server Selections 503.

Furthermore, the Office Action alleges that Select Default Connection frame 510 in FIG. 5A of Beadle is the same as an "active area." Applicant respectfully disagrees. Claim 1 recites that "selecting the active area allows a new connection window to appear." In Beadle, Select Default Connection frame 510 is not selectable (only the buttons in 510 are selectable). Furthermore, selecting Select Default Connection frame 510 does not cause a new connection window to appear. The Office Action also refers to Beadle, col. 11, lines 23-31, but this passage

in Beadle does not disclose or suggest that selecting the active area, which is within the connection management window, causes a new connection window to appear.

Claim 1 further recites that selecting the active area not only allows a new connection window to appear but also, upon designating a new connection, allows a second connection icon for a second application to be displayed within the connection management window. The Office Action refers to Beadle, col. 10, lines 6-15, but this passage together with FIG. 10 merely discloses a Satellite transmission medium 1007 and a modem transmission medium 1009.

Furthermore, Claim 1 recites that the first connection icon represents a first connection between the remote computing device and a first local computing device, and the second connection icon represents a second connection between the remote computing device and a second local computing device. Beadle does not disclose or suggest such first connection icon and second connection icon.

The Office Action applied other references against the dependent claims, but none of these references discloses or suggests the features of Claim 1 discussed above.

Accordingly, the applied references, either alone or in combination, are not understood to disclose, teach, or suggest the features of independent Claim 1, which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Furthermore, the applied references are not understood to disclose or suggest the features of remaining independent claims 7, 17 and 21 for at least some of the reasons discussed above, or for similar reasons, to the extent the features of claim 1 are recited in claims 7, 17 and 21.

The other claims currently under consideration in the application are dependent from the independent claim discussed above and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Applicant's undersigned attorney may be contacted at the address and telephone number set forth below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 502203 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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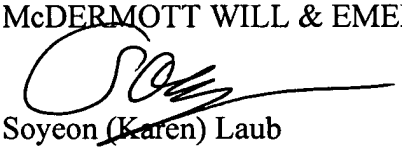

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